

April 4, 1977

committee felt that it should be considered by the entire body. Many times a motion to bracket can be a stratagem or it can be taken in great seriousness but the issue involved with the bill itself and the timing factor sometimes warrant discussion by people other than the one who makes the bracketing motion and the introducer. So because others may develop an interest in a bill or already have an interest in a bill which comes to the floor, I'm opposed to discussion being limited only to the mover and to the introducer. I'm opposed to this rules change.

SENATOR DECAMP: I'd...there are no other lights. I'll close on this by simply saying, the Rules Committee met. They discussed this. We are trying to give you a system so that you can both deal with your business here and do it in a fairly reasonable and fair way. I repeat, the motion would be then to...the rules change would be to allow 5 minutes for both sides basically on the question of bracketing. As you know, time and time again we've wasted whole days on whether something should or should not be bracketed. I think there are a number of people that feel that we are just getting nowhere when we do that. So I urge you to adopt the rule.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator DeCamp, I appreciate that close but the Chair didn't rule that that was a close and Senator Marvel's light was on and I'm going to recognize Senator Marvel. Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: May I ask Senator DeCamp a question? You've got 5 or 6 rules changes.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator DeCamp would you yield? Senator Marvel, the Chair might explain that we are only on the first rules change by the committee and we will take these one at a time. Senator DeCamp would you yield?

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes.

SENATOR MARVEL: I understand that Mr. President, but he did lay groundwork by saying there was a series of amendments and is this one of a series of amendments to attempt to limit debate? Because this does limit debate.

SENATOR DECAMP: This would limit debate on the bracketing question. On the motion of bracketing, it would limit debate. The other one is a provision that after prolonged debate, the introducer would have an option to...I'm just touching on this now, we'll deal with it later. The introducer would have an option to at least call for the question. We'll deal with that later.

SENATOR MARVEL: I guess I'm in this dilemma that I'm not one who gets up and talks a lot. I was in the Chair this morning. I know how much time it takes but I'd have to have more argument than has been given now to vote to limit debate in this body. I think there ought to be some way to control it but I think this is...I guess I really don't think our function in the Legislature is to cut down debate so that we can see how many issues we can pass. I think our function is to deliberate and to the extent that we can do this without going overboard to that extent, we should let people talk. I guess with those remarks, I would be opposed to this particular motion unless you have better arguments than you have put up so far.